

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification at page 8, paragraph beginning at line 17 as follows:

The sequence of dashed arrows in the figure shows the path of an exemplary data flow on ring 26 from source node F to destination node B via segments 31, 32, 33 and 34. In one preferred embodiment of the present invention, the flow corresponds to a Multiprotocol Label Switching (MPLS) tunnel provided between nodes F and B, in accordance with IETF RFC 3031, entitled "Multiprotocol Label Switching Architecture" (January, 2001), which is incorporated herein by reference. ~~(This RFC is available at www.ietf.org/rfc.html.)~~ Alternatively, the flow may be created using any other suitable communication protocol known in the art.